

am also a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues led by Representatives Pallone and Grimm.

The Armenian-American community is one of the greatest success stories in this Nation's history. I was meeting recently with a group of my Armenian-American constituents to discuss some of the current issues affecting US-Armenian relations and I commented that in my experience, I have never met an unsuccessful Armenian!

As an Irish-American, I know what it is like to come from a troubled land. My grandfather and grandmother came to Boston from Ireland in 1902. Just as the core of the Irish-American community was formed out of the refugees of the Potato famine and the Irish Civil War, the core of the Armenian-American community was formed from those who fled the Genocide and their descendants.

Today, we remember and commemorate the Armenian Genocide, the first of many genocides we saw in the 20th Century. The Armenian Genocide that began in 1915 is sometimes called the "forgotten genocide," but we must never forget!

I was proud to be present at the opening of the Armenian Heritage Park in Boston in May of last year. This beautiful park and its haunting monument are a lasting testament to the 1.5 million Armenians who were slaughtered by the Ottoman Empire. This monument reminds us that we must be ever vigilant and not allow such horrors to occur again.

In order to prevent future genocides, however, we must recognize those of the past. For many years the U.S. House of Representatives has had before it a resolution which clearly affirmed that the Armenian Genocide did occur.

I have been a strong supporter and vocal cosponsor of this resolution in every Congress, and I remain so today.

Almost one-hundred years have passed since the Armenian Genocide, yet the suffering will continue for Armenians and non-Armenians alike as long as the world allows denial to prevail.

Already, 43 states and 22 nations have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, and it is long overdue for the United States to do the same.

Unfortunately, the Republic of Armenia's challenges have continued even after it gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

In the face of ongoing blockades from Turkey and Azerbaijan, the United States must provide assistance to Armenia while working to reestablish the Turkish government's commitment to normalized relations in order to ensure peace and stability in the Caucasus region. I strongly support these efforts.

The Armenian people are true survivors. Despite the reappearing themes of invasions and land loss that the Armenians have dealt with for over 3,000 years, coupled with the loss of between one-half and three-quarters of their population in the early 20th century, the people of Armenia have prevailed.

The journey of the Armenian people continues today, with our shared responsibility to ensure that the Armenian people are able to build their own, independent and prosperous future.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Armenian-American community to address the issues facing this longtime friend and impor-

tant ally of the United States. Together we can continue to build something positive, something hopeful, something good for the future—an Armenia that is respected and honored by its allies and neighbors.

And this *cannot* come without universal acknowledgement of the horror that was the Armenian Genocide.

Shnorhagal em (Thank you).

RECOGNIZING WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor 32 women who were recognized as New Mexico "Women of Influence" for 2013.

It is important to highlight women in our communities who are achieving incredible success as local business and community leaders. Albuquerque Business First partnered with the local business community to evaluate a record number of nominations for the Women of Influence awards.

I understand the challenges of being a small business owner and overcoming hurdles that are all-too-common for women in a male-dominated culture. I appreciate and applaud this year's honorees, each of whom has contributed to the state of New Mexico in unique and exciting ways.

New Mexico's Women of Influence include CEO's, educators, entrepreneurs, and leaders in financial services, government, health and fitness, non-profits and technology firms.

Business Services:

Virginia R. Dugan, Esquire, Atkinson & Kelsey, P.A., Annette Gardiner, President, New Mexico Gas Company, Debra P. Hicks, PE/LSI, President and CEO, Pettigrew & Associates, P.A., Jennifer Hise, Vice President, CEMCO, Inc., Laurie Monfiletto, Vice President of Human Resources, PNM Resources, Dorothy Stermer, Manager, Sandia National Laboratories, Dr. Sandra Taylor-Sawyer, Director, NM Small Business Development Center, CEO, Dream Givers, LLC, Independent Associate, LegalShield.

Education:

Barbara Bergman, Interim Dean, University of New Mexico School of Law, Marilyn Melendez Dykman, Director, University of New Mexico Veterans Resource Center, Dr. Viola E. Florez, Professor and PNM Education Endowed Chair, University of New Mexico College of Education.

Entrepreneur:

Sherry M. Keeney, President/CEO, PECOS Management Services, Inc., Janice J. Lucero, CEO/Owner, MVD Express, Susan MacLean, President & CEO, The Solutions Group, DeAnn Sena O'Connor, Creative Director, dso creative.

Financial Services:

Karen M. Bard, Wealth Management Advisor, Merrill Lynch, Dohnia Dorman, MBA, VP of Marketing, Rio Grande Credit Union, Part-Time Adjunct Lecturer II, UNM, Tammy S. Jaramillo, Director of Administration, Burt & Company CPAs, LLC.

Government:

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Executive Director, El Camino Real Housing Authority, Ann

Lerner, Film Liaison, City of Albuquerque, Katherine Carroll Martinez, Director, Construction Industries Division/Manufactured Housing Division, Regulation and Licensing Department, State of New Mexico.

Health/Fitness:

Kristie Bair, J.D., President, Bair Medical Spa, Gayle Dine'Chacon, MD, Surgeon General, Navajo Nation, Associate Professor, UNM School of Medicine, E. DeAnn Eaton Azar, CEO, Haverland Carter Lifestyle Group, Kim E. Hedrick, Vice President Strategic Business Development, University of New Mexico Medical Group, Inc., Mary G. Martinez, Franchise Owner/CEO, Home Instead Senior Care.

I congratulate these women leaders and thank them for their contributions to New Mexico.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. GENE BUINGER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and to celebrate the retirement of Dr. Gene Buinger as the Superintendent of Schools for the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District (HEB-isd). Dr. Buinger served the 24th district of Texas with pride and success in his tenure as the Superintendent of the HEB-isd.

Dr. Buinger began his successful career with HEB-isd in June of 1999. In his 14 years as the Superintendent, Dr. Buinger turned HEB-isd into a school system that prepares all children for college or the work force. Dr. Buinger selflessly instituted a variety of initiatives to bolster the school districts reach in their student's education. Implementation of the International Baccalaureate and International Business Initiative within the HEB-isd offers secondary students an opportunity they may not get in other school districts.

Dr. Buinger implemented these programs during his tenure to ensure that the students coming from the HEB-isd would be able to gain entry to the world's most prestigious universities. As Superintendent, Dr. Buinger's ISD increased Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills performance by 20 percent in some areas virtually eliminating the achievement gap among all student groups.

Mr. Speaker, with Dr. Buinger's retirement, the 24th District of Texas celebrates a great leader in the fight for a stronger education for our nation's youth. I am honored to recognize Dr. Buinger for his service to the HEB-isd. His experience and expertise will be sorely missed. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Buinger on a tremendous career as well as wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING JACOB R. BEAUCHAMP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob R.